

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 242027Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 720

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 03197

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: FENAGH AND FERNANDO LARDIZABAL REJECT HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION
ACCUSATIONS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3181

1. REFTTEL REPORTED JULY 23 GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE THAT
STATED SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL HAD DOCUMENTS IN ITS
POSSESSION WHICH INDICATED THAT THE OLAOCHO INCIDENTS
RESULTED FROM A PLAN DIRECTED BY A GROUP BELONGING TO
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF LANDOWNERS AND CATTLEMEN
(FENAGH) TO CREATE A CLIMATE OF CHAOS AND CONFRONTATION
IN THE COUNTRY. THE COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT THE
DOCUMENTS MENTIONED FERNANDO LARLIZAAL, PRESIDENT
OF FENAGH.

2. FENAGH ISSUED A JULY 24 DECLARATION REJECTING THE
CHARGE. THE MAIN POINTS FOLLOW:

(A) FENAGH ENERGETICALLY REJECTS THE FALSE AND
SLANDEROUS ACCUSATION MADE BY THE HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION;

(B) NONE OF ITS MEMBERS TOOK PART IN ACTS DESCRIBED
IN THE REPORT;

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(C) FENAGH DEMANDS THE IMMEDIATE PUBLIC PRESENTATION

OF DOCUMENTS DESCRIBED IN THE REPORT THAT MENTION THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION; AND
(D) THE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION BELIEVE IT IS DANGEROUS TO CONVERT INTO CRIMINALS ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUCCEEDED IN LIFE OR HAVE INHERITED THE ESTATES OF THEIR PARENTS.

2. LARDIZABAL MADE STATEMENTS TO LA PRENSA AND TIEMPO WHICH APPEARED IN THEIR JULY ISSUES. THE MAJOR POINTS FOLLOW:

(A) EMPHASIZED THAT EVERYTHING CONTAINED ABOUT FENAGH OR HIM IN THE COMMISSION REPORT IS FALSE;
(B) DEMANDED THAT THE COMMISSION PUBLISH THE INCRIMINATING DOCUMENTS;
(C) SPECULATED THAT HIS INCLUSION IN REPORT WAS A REPRISAL FOR BEING REELECTED PRESIDENT OF FENAGH; AND
(D) STATED THAT THE DIRECTING BOARD OF FENAGH HAS BEEN CONVOKED FOR AN EMERGENCY MEETING ON JULY 28 TO ANALYZE THE SITUATION.

3. LARDIZABAL HAD INFORMED EMBOFF ON WEEKEND THAT HE ANTICIPATED MILITARY WOULD CAST WHATEVER BLAME POSSIBLE ON LANDOWNERS. ON JULY 24 HE ADVISED EMBOFF THAT (WHILE NOT VOUCHING FOR ZELAYA'S INNOCENCE) HE FINDS INCREDIBLE ZELAYA'S PARTICIPATION AS ACCUSED IN THE OFFICIAL COMMISSION REPORT. ALTHOUGH ZELAYA IS A LANDOWNER AND RANCHER, HE IS NOT A MEMBER OF FENAGH. LARDIZABAL SAYS THE ONLY DOCUMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS THAT MENTIONS HIS OWN NAME IS A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR OF JUTICALPA WHICH ASKED FOR MONEY. THE LETTER WAS NEVER DELIVERED. THE MAYOR MAY ALSO HAVE INVOLVED THE NAME OF CASANOVA, WHOSE SAWMILL FACES THE ZELAYA PROPERTY.

4. COMMENT: FENAGH CONSIDERS IT IMPERATIVE TO MAKE A CATEGORIC REJECTION OF ANY IMPLICATION OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE OLANCHO EVENTS, AND INTENDS TO FIGHT HARD AGAINST ANY COVER-UP.
SANCHEZ

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